

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Without prejudice, this listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Presently Amended) A gaming system, comprising:
 - (a) a plurality of game tickets each having indicia for use in the play of a first lottery game and each also having a respective machine readable ticket code unique to that ticket in said system, the machine readable ticket code for use in the play of a jackpot game;
 - a plurality of distributed terminals for dispensing the game tickets;;
 - (b) at least one central computer in communication with said terminals;;
 - (c) ~~each of said tickets bearing a machine-readable ticket code unique to that ticket in said system,~~
 - (d) each of said terminals having at least one code reader for reading said machine readable ticket code from each of said game tickets when the ticket is dispensed;;
 - (e) data storage means for storing a prize code;; and
 - (f) comparison means for comparing said prize code with said machine readable ticket code read from each of said game tickets, and for indicating a match between said machine readable ticket code and said prize code.
2. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as in claim 1, in which said data storage means for storing said prize code includes storage means at each of said terminals, and intermittently-operating modem means interconnecting each of said terminals and said central computer for uploading and downloading information between said terminals and said central computer.
3. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as in claim 1, in which each of said terminals is connected on-line to said central computer and includes means for transmitting said machine readable ticket code to said central computer, said data storage means prize and said comparing means being contained in said central computer.

4. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as in claim 1 ~~in which each of said tickets bears indicia covered with, wherein the indicia on said game tickets is concealed by a removable covering to be removed to play a~~ the first lottery game, ~~one indicating that it is a jackpot winner.~~

5. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as in claim 1, in which each of said terminals includes display means and communication means for communicating ticket sales information to said central computer, and said central computer being programmed to add a pre-determined increment to the amount of a jackpot prize until a match indication is ~~given~~ indicated by said comparing means, said communication means being adapted for communicating said amount of said jackpot prize to said display means.

6. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as in claim 5, in which said comparing means is connected to deliver a match-indicating signal to said central computer to stop the adding of increments to said jackpot prize amount, said central computer being programmed to reduce said jackpot prize to a predetermined lower amount upon delivery of said match-indicating signal.

7. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as in claim 5, in which said central computer is programmed to add a second pre-determined increment to a second monetary pool in response to said ticket sales information, and ~~for using to use~~ the amount in said second monetary pool as the amount of said a second jackpot prize when ~~said a second~~ match occurs.

8. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as in claim 4, in which each of said terminals includes a printer for printing play information including indicia to be matched with said indicia on one of said tickets to determine the amount of any winnings to the holder of said ticket in the first lottery game.

9. (Presently Amended) A ~~The~~ system as in claim 8, in which said printer is selected from the group consisting of one which is adapted to print said play information on the ticket being dispensed, and one which is adapted to print said play information on a separate sheet.

10. (Presently Amended) A gaming system comprising:

a plurality of independent sub-systems, each of said sub-systems ~~comprising~~
including

_____ (a) a plurality of game tickets each having indicia for use in the play of a first lottery game and each also having a respective machine readable ticket code unique to that ticket in said system, the machine readable ticket code for use in the play of a jackpot game

_____ a plurality of distributed terminals for dispensing the game tickets,

_____ (b) at least one central computer in communication with said terminals,

(c) ~~each of said tickets bearing a machine-readable ticket code unique to that ticket in said gaming system,~~

_____ (d) each of said terminals having at least one code reader for reading said machine readable ticket code from each of said game tickets when the ticket is dispensed,

_____ (e) data storage means for storing a prize code,

_____ (f) comparison means for comparing said prize code with said machine readable ticket code read from each of said game tickets, and for indicating a match between said ~~given~~ machine readable ticket code and said prize code; and

(g) ~~said gaming system including~~ a supervisory computer means connected for communication with ~~a~~ the at least one central computer of each of said independent sub-systems, (h) said supervisory computer means being programmed to receive ticket sales data from each of said sub-systems, determine the amount of a jackpot prize ~~as a function of~~ based on said ticket sales data, and communicate information to each of said sub-systems as to the amount of said jackpot prize and the occurrence of a match between a prize code and a ticket code.

11. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The system as in claim 10, in which each of said sub-systems is located in a different state.

12. (Presently Amended) A gaming method, comprising: ~~the steps of:~~

(a) storing a plurality of gaming tickets in each of a plurality of gaming ticket dispensers, each of said tickets bearing ~~machine-readable coded information uniquely identifying it~~ indicia for use in the play of a first lottery game and each also having a respective machine readable ticket code unique to that ticket in said system, the machine readable ticket code for use in the play of a jackpot game;

(b) providing a code reader associated with each of said dispensers for reading said ~~coded information~~ machine readable ticket code from each ticket dispensed ~~form~~ from each dispenser;

(c) dispensing a ticket;

detecting said ~~information~~ machine readable ticket code on the ticket indicating that a ~~given~~ the ticket is a winner of the jackpot game; and

(d) upon dispensing said ticket informing the recipient of said ticket that ~~it~~ the ticket is a winner.

13. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as in claim 12 ~~including the step of,~~ further comprising:

(a) accumulating a first prize pool by detecting each ticket dispensed from said dispensers and adding a corresponding amount to said first prize pool;

(b) stopping said accumulation upon the detection of the dispensing of said winner; and

(c) starting to accumulate ~~another~~ a new prize pool upon the detection of the dispensing of an additional ticket after the detection of said winner.

14. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as in claim 13, including starting said ~~other~~ new prize pool with an amount greater than zero.

15. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as in claim 13 including, further comprising:

(a) accumulating a second prize pool by adding an amount of money per ticket significantly less than the amount of money added to the first ~~named~~ prize pool for each ticket dispensed prior to the award of the jackpot prize; and

(b) using said second prize pool to start said other new prize pool after the detection of said winner.

16. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as in claim 12 including the steps of, further comprising:

(a) accumulating a second prize pool by adding an amount of money per ticket significantly less than the amount of money added to the first ~~named~~ prize pool for each ticket dispensed prior to the award of the jackpot prize; and

(b) using said second prize pool to start said other new prize pool after the detection of said winner.

~~16.~~ 17. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as in claim 12 including the steps of, further comprising:

(a) storing said identification information and the winner-indicating information in an information storage means; ~~and~~

(b) accumulating a second prize pool by adding an amount of money per ticket significantly less than the amount of money added to the first prize pool for each ticket dispensed prior to the award of the jackpot prize; and

using said second prize ~~pools pool~~ to start said other new prize pool after the detection of said winner.

~~17.~~ 18. (Presently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as in claim ~~12~~ including 16, further comprising:

providing human-readable information regarding winning ~~another~~ the first lottery game, said human-readable information being covered by a manually-removable covering, said ~~machine~~ human-readable information including the amount of any winners to which the ticket holder is entitled in said ~~other~~ first lottery game.

~~18~~ 19. (Presently Amended) A gaming method, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- (a) providing a plurality of ticket dispensing machines;
- (b) ~~using said machines to dispense~~ dispensing instant-winner lottery tickets ~~each from said machines, each instant-winner lottery ticket~~ having information identifying one of a plurality of specific games in which the ticket is issued, and having a removable cover over human-readable gaming information, each of said tickets also bearing machine-readable unique identification information;
- (c) providing a jackpot prize pool which tickets from a the plurality of said specific game are eligible to win;
- (d) providing a code reader in each of said dispensing ~~means~~ machines for reading said machine-readable identification information and producing corresponding signals; and
- (e) detecting said signals to identify a winner of said jackpot prize.

~~19~~ 20. (Presently Amended) A The method as in claim 19 ~~18~~, in which ~~the step of~~ providing said jackpot prize further comprises:

- using said code readers to detect the dispensing of each ticket from said dispensing machines and adding to said jackpot prize pool a predetermined amount;
- stopping the adding to said prize pool when said winner has been detected; and
- starting a new prize pool at an amount lower than that in said jackpot prize pool, after said winner has been detected.

~~20~~ 21. (Presently Amended) A The method as in claim 20 ~~19~~ including, further comprising:
the step of accumulating a shadow pool by adding a second predetermined amount, smaller than the first-named amount, for each ticket dispensed by said dispensing machines; and

using the amount in said shadow pool to start the new prize pool when a the winner has been detected.

~~21~~ 22. (Presently Amended) A The method as in claim 19 ~~18~~ including the step of, further comprising:

informing the recipient of a the winning ticket that the ticket is a the winner upon the dispensing of the ticket.

23. (New) A system for facilitating the play of a jackpot game together with a separate ticket-based lottery game, comprising:

a game ticket having indicia for use in the play of a separate ticket-based lottery game and a machine readable ticket identifier for use in the play of a jackpot game; and

a lottery ticket dispensing machine, including

a code reader to read the machine readable ticket identifier from the game ticket when the game ticket is dispensed by the lottery ticket dispensing machine, and
an output device to indicate the game ticket is a winning ticket for the jackpot game.

24. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein the game ticket is an instant win lottery ticket having indicia concealed by a removable covering, the indicia indicating whether the lottery ticket is a winner of the separate ticket-based lottery game.

25. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein the game ticket is a scratch-off lottery ticket having indicia concealed by a removable covering, the indicia indicating whether the lottery ticket is a winner of the separate ticket-based lottery game.

26. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein the game ticket is a pull-tab lottery ticket having indicia concealed by a removable covering, the indicia indicating whether the lottery ticket is a winner of the separate ticket-based lottery game.

27. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein the game ticket is a future draw lottery ticket having indicia which are matched against a future drawing event to determine if the lottery ticket is a winner of the separate ticket-based lottery game.

28. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein whether the game ticket wins the jackpot game is determined randomly at the time the game ticket is dispensed.

29. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein whether the game ticket wins the jackpot game is determined by a predetermined selection of a winning machine readable ticket identifier.

30. (New) The system of claim 23, wherein the jackpot game is of a progressive nature.

31. (New) The system of claim 30, further comprising:
a computer storing a jackpot prize amount, the computer in communication with the lottery ticket dispensing machine, the computer incrementing the prize amount in response to the lottery ticket dispensing machine dispensing a game ticket.

32. (New) A method of facilitating the play of a jackpot game together with a separate ticket-based lottery game, comprising:

dispensing a game ticket having indicia for use in the play of a first lottery game and a machine readable ticket identifier for use in the play of a jackpot game;

reading the machine readable ticket identifier from the game ticket when the game ticket is dispensed; and

indicating on an output device whether the game ticket is a winning ticket for the jackpot game.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising the steps of:

comparing the machine readable ticket identifier from the game ticket with a stored jackpot winning ticket identifier.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 further comprising:

setting an initial value for a jackpot prize amount;

adding a predetermined amount to the jackpot prize amount by detecting each game ticket dispensed; and

stopping the accumulation of the jackpot prize amount when the winning ticket for the jackpot game is dispensed.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 further including:
displaying the jackpot prize amount.

36. (New) A game ticket for the play of a jackpot game together with a separate ticket-based lottery game, comprising:

an indicia for use in the play of a first lottery game; and

a machine readable ticket identifier for use in the play of a progressive jackpot game.

37. (New) A system for facilitating the play of a jackpot game together with a separate ticket-based lottery game, comprising:

a plurality of independent sub-systems, each of said sub-systems including

a game ticket having indicia for use in the play of a first lottery game and a machine readable ticket identifier for use in the play of a jackpot game,

at least one central computer in communication with the plurality of lottery ticket dispensing machines, and

a plurality of lottery ticket dispensing machines, including

a processor in communication with the at least one central computer,

a code reader to read the machine readable ticket identifier from the game ticket when the game ticket is dispensed by the lottery ticket dispensing machine, and

an output device to indicate the game ticket is a winning ticket for the jackpot game.